

CAPSULE SUMMARY
6206 Old Branch Avenue (PG: 76B-25)
Prince George's County, Maryland

Constructed in 1936, the modest masonry house is an example of the Craftsman style houses of the period. The Pyles family has owned the property since 1912, but the earlier house dating to this period has subsequently been torn down. This house was built in 1936 and the neighboring house at 6200 Old Branch Avenue was constructed circa 1920, both for the Pyles family. Built of brick, the house is an unusual example of the Craftsman style in the Maryland 301 Survey Corridor.

The house at 6206 Old Branch Avenue sits on a level grassy lot that is surrounded by chain link fencing. The rear yard contains a man-made fishpond, a large patio and a wood deck. The Craftsman style house is two-stories in height and five bays in width. It is set on a brick foundation and is constructed of polychromatic brick laid in six-course American bond. An enclosed porch extends across the façade. The cross gable roof is covered with slate tiles and has wide eaves.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 76B-25

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 6206 Old Branch Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Temple Hills vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20748

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

6206 Old Branch Avenue
Prince George's County, Maryland

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Page 2

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Brick Stretcher Bond
Roof Cross Gable: Slate Tile
Walls Masonry: Six-course American Bond
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

6206 Old Branch Avenue

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1936-1950

Significant Dates c. 1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.66 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 6206 Old Branch Avenue is designated as Parcel 99, Grid B4 as indicated on Map 98.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 6206 Old Branch Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 99 since its construction in the 1930s.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

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name Harvey E Pyles, Jr. and Glen O. Pyles
street & number 6210 Allentown Road telephone _____
city or town Camp Springs state MD zip code 20746

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-25

Section 7 Page 1

6206 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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The house at 6206 Old Branch Avenue sits on a level grassy lot that is surrounded by chain link fencing. The rear yard contains a man-made fishpond, a large patio and a wood deck. Built circa 1936, the Craftsman style house is two stories in height and five bays in width. It is set on a brick foundation and is constructed of polychromatic brick laid in six-course American bond. An enclosed porch extends across the façade. The cross gable roof is covered with slate tiles and has wide eaves.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The enclosed porch dominates the façade or west elevation of the masonry dwelling. Extending across the full width of the house, the porch is enclosed with brick laid in both six-course American bond and a basket weave pattern. Grouped six-light casement windows and a single leaf door adorn the enclosed porch. The variegated brick creates a diamond shaped pattern in the gable end. Paired 6/6 wood windows further define the gable end. All of the windows have slightly projecting concrete sills.

The south elevation has a one-story, wrap-around porch that extends three bays along this side of the house. The porch is supported by brick piers and enclosed with screening. Behind the porch are triple and paired 6/6 aluminum windows with concrete sills. There is a side gable addition that is pierced by a triple six-light casement window with a concrete sill.

The wrap-around porch extends to the rear or east elevation. It is partially enclosed with brick and a 6/6 aluminum window, while the remainder is screen enclosed. Concrete sills adorn the two sets of paired 6/6 windows at the first story and the single 6/6 window at the second story. The exterior chimney, featuring a corbeled cap, graces the rear elevation. At the rear of the house, the roof features wide eaves and cornice returns. A modern wood deck was added to the rear of the dwelling.

Five one-light sliding windows with concrete sills pierce the foundation of the north elevation. The first story contains three sets of paired 6/6 wood windows and a single 6/6 wood window, all of which have concrete sills. A paired 6/6 wood window graces the gable end. The north elevation of the enclosed porch contains five six-light casement windows.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

6206 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
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SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

There are two historic garages to the rear of the house. There is a 1920s, one-story, two-bay garage that is constructed of rock-faced concrete block. Two roll-up wood panel-and-light doors pierce the façade. It has a flat roof with a parapet. The 1930s garage is one story in height and one bay in width. Like the house, it is constructed of polychromatic brick laid in six-course American bond. The gable end is pierced with a six-light semi-circular window. The garage is covered with a front gable, asphalt shingle roof with cornice returns.

In the back yard, there is a wood frame gazebo dating from the 1990s. It is octagonal in shape and the wood posts are enclosed with screening. A cupola graces the wood shingled roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Section 8 Page 1

6206 Old Branch Avenue
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Prince George's County, MD
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The typical Bungalow/Craftsman style, which gained popularity in the early 20th century, can be identified by the horizontal lines, deep, full-width porches, low-pitched roofs, broad eaves, an emphasis on natural materials, and a general air of informality. First used as vacation cabins, the Bungalow's small scale, informal floor plans, sheltering porches, and inexpensive building materials made it a natural addition to suburban communities.¹ Typical of Craftsman style houses, this dwelling features wide eaves, double-hung windows and a deep-set porch. The bungalow became the dominant style of middle and working class households in the early years of the 20th century. These houses were very popular because they were inexpensive to design and build. In fact, the style was spread primarily by plans sold in popular catalogues, rather than by architects.

The construction of this house in the 1930s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time. The population rose steadily in the early 20th century, with the population in the county nearly doubling between 1910 and 1930. Much of this growth occurred in the suburban corridors that radiated outward from the District of Columbia along the Baltimore and Potomac rail line through southern Maryland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad located in the northwestern portion of the county. In Prince George's County, suburban development intensified around the existing communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as streetcar lines and early automobiles made the suburbs accessible to the upper middle and middle classes. The automobile and corollary new road construction resulted in suburbanization of previously sparsely settled portions of northern Prince George's County. This house predates the heavy suburbanization that occurred in this region of the county.

¹ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "A Nation in Bungalove," *Old House Journal*, Volume XXIV, Number 2, March/April 1996, page 35-36.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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6206 Old Branch Avenue
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Located near Andrews Air Force Base, this area of Prince George's County was greatly impacted by the building of the military installation in 1942 and then again in the 1960s with the completion of the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495).

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 6206 Old Branch Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] ✓ Date: 11/7/98

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-25

6206 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

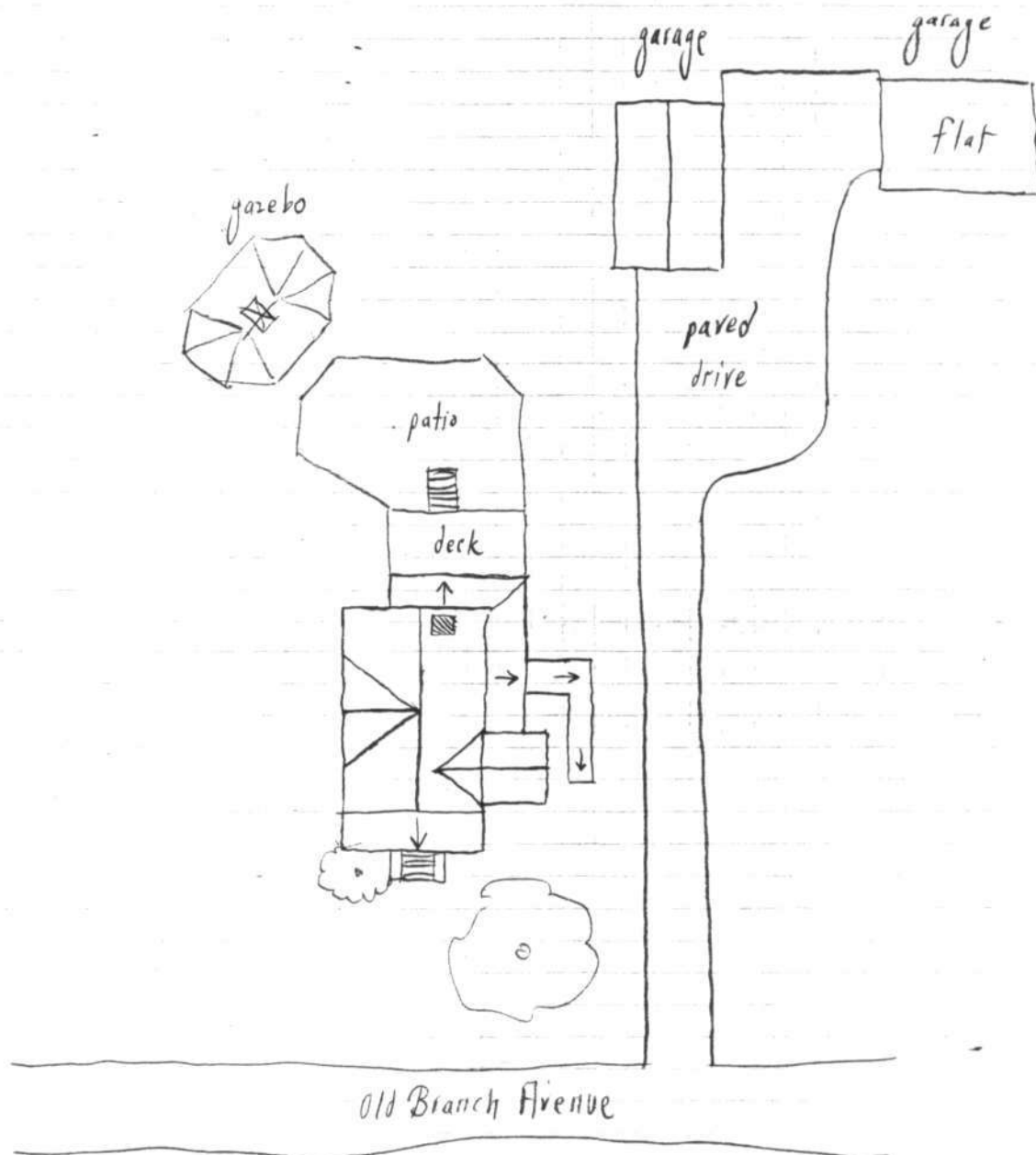
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-25

6206 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

May 29, 1888:	Richard H Sweeney and his wife to Jefferson B. Redd Land Records of Prince George's County Liber JWB 9 Folio 540
July 18, 1912:	Jefferson B Redd to Wallace E. Pyles Land Records of Prince George's County Liber 82 Folio 434
June 18, 1959:	W. Eugene Pyles to Eula V. Pyles, Sr. Will Records of Prince George's County Will Book WDA 4 Folio 245
May 31, 1969:	Eula V. Pyles to Harvey E. Pyles, Sr. Will Records of Prince George's County Will Book CGMcG 6 Folio 351
July 13, 1983:	Harvey E. Pyles, Sr. to Harvey E. Pyles, Jr. And Glen O. Pyles

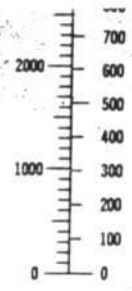


6206 Old Branch Avenue PG: 76B-25

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale





Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

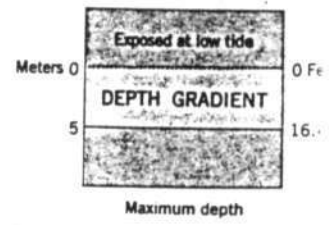
To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-25

6516 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-27

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-28



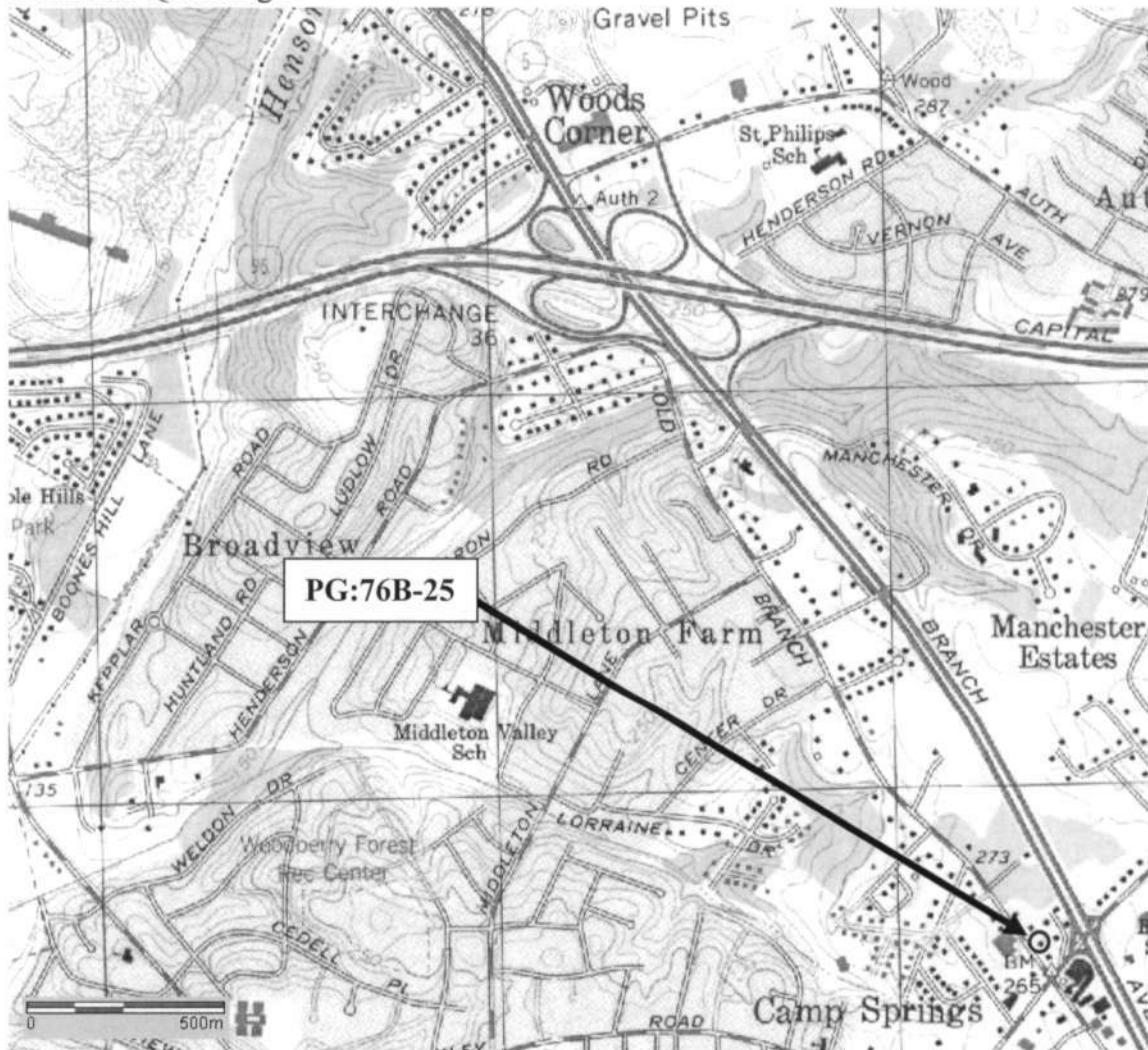
Anacostia USGS Quad



6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-26

PG:76B-25

6206 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills
Anacostia Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 97, p. 86





PG: 768-25

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

west elevation

1 of 5



PG: 768-25

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

east elevation

2 of 5



PG: 768-25
6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JULY 1999
MID SHPO
north elevation
3 of 5



PG: 76B-25

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

garage

4 of 5



PG: 768-25

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES,

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

garage
5 of 5